



The present Charleston Ward Chapel, constructed from 1949 to 1951 and dedicated February 18, 1951 by Elder Mark E. Petersen of the Council of the Twelve. Built while H. Fred Price was ward bishop.

Social Hall
1st Framen
School
Charleston
P. 1008

area where the stage was robbed, or that the Indian's horse had followed them. Both became guests at the territorial prison for a long time. Nearly thirty years later Wharton returned to the San Juan country, where he spent a lot of time wandering around the Potter Canyon area. After months of futile search he left for parts unknown; but before leaving he confided to an understanding barkeep that his partner had been killed in prison, and that the stagecoach loot was cached under a small natural sandstone arch. Wharton said that the arch was in Potter Canyon at a place where the tops of the Knickerbocker Hills could be seen. He believed that the arch had fallen during the time he spent in prison, for he could find no trace of it. Maybe so, but range riders and prospectors along the San Juan still keep a close watch for Wharton's lost arch!

For a time stage robberies became so frequent and violent—with several stage drivers and guards being killed—that Wells Fargo refused to accept treasure shipments. Gilmer & Salisbury as well as other carriers were forced to let express shipments pile up until they could chance sending out a special treasure coach on their own, with no passengers on board. Several mines, such as the Vulture Mine near Wickenburg, cast their bullet in bars so heavy that thieves couldn't steal them. In March, 1884, an especially vicious band of thieves robbed a Gilmer & Salisbury stage near Silver City. Some background on the outlaws taking part in the heist may be of interest.

Four months earlier, on November 24, 1883, a Southern Pacific Railway Express car was robbed fifteen miles west of Deming. The viciousness of the robbers was appalling. To stop the engine, rocks were piled on the